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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1902.

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THE HISTORY OF ICHTHYOLOGY.*

SCIENCE consists of human experience, tested and placed in order. The science of ichthyology contains our knowledge of fishes, derived from varied experience of man, tested by methods or instruments of precision and arranged in orderly sequence. This science, in common with every other, is the work of many men, each in his own field, and each contributing a series of facts, a series of tests of the alleged facts of others, or some improvement in the method of arrangement. As in other branches of science, this work has been done by sincere, devoted men, impelled by a love for this kind of labor, and having in view, as 'the only reward they asked, a grateful remembrance of their work.' And in token of this reward it is well sometimes, in grateful spirit, to go over the names of those who made even its slight degree of completeness possible.

We may begin the history of ichthyology with that of so many others of the sciences, with the work of Aristotle (383–322 B.C.). This wonderful observer recorded many facts concerning the structure and habits of the fishes of Greece, and in almost every case his actual observation bears the closest modern test. These observations

* Address of the Vice-President and Chairman of Section F, Zoology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pittsburgh Meeting, 1902.

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